

Fact Sheet – Proposed NCAA Legislation for Independent Championships

What is the purpose of the proposal?

The proposal is intended to permit independent institutions in Division III to provide their student-athletes the same kind of season-ending competitive opportunity that conference members currently provide.

Why is the proposal necessary?

Current NCAA legislation provides an exemption to contest limitations for season-ending conference championship events. No such exemption exists for independent institutions. This proposal permits independents the same kind of exempted postseason opportunity currently afforded to conference members.

What are the primary benefits?

- Culminating competitive opportunity improves the quality of the student-athlete experience.
- Additional quality competition among independents improves chances for NCAA championship selection.
- Eliminates a competitive disadvantage for independent institutions.

What would the championships format look like?

Independent institutions sponsoring competition in each sport would determine whether a season-ending championship would be conducted in that sport and, if so, the format of the event.

For example, in baseball or women's basketball, sponsoring independent institutions might decide to create four regional four-team tournaments (with no further advancement opportunity). In each region, selection most likely would be based on regular-season records, with hosting responsibilities determined on a rotating basis.

In another sport (e.g., swimming), sponsoring institutions may decide that the relatively fewer number of participating schools and potential travel costs might make a season-ending event for independents impractical. Or, they might decide to conduct only two regional events (East and West).

What about the cost?

The decision to participate in these season-ending events would be up to each independent institution. For those institutions that choose not to participate, there would be no additional cost.

For those that do choose to participate, the costs would depend on the number of season-ending events in which the institution's student-athletes participate. The primary additional costs would be travel, plus any additional costs associated with hosting an event (for those institutions choosing to do so).

Would my institution still be eligible for NCAA and NAIA championships?

Yes. The independent championships contemplated by this proposal would be conducted after the end of the regular season and prior to the NCAA championship. The exemption being proposed is completely separate from those allowed for NCAA and NAIA championship events.

Who should I contact if I have additional questions?

Contact John Leavens, director, Association of Division III Independents, at jleavens@d3independents.org. Or call the association office at 816-474-7264.